

Donald J. Miller  
148 Birch Dr  
Cheshire, CT 06410

Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office  
Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06101

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to inform you all of my family's experience with the Birth to Three program. My wife Staci and I have four daughters who are relatively close in age. Our third daughter Finley was born in August of 2013, and was by all accounts a happy and healthy baby girl. Sometime in the fall or winter of 2014 Finley became very ill for several days to a week. After that sickness something was different with Finley, she was no longer very communicative, could not be soothed when upset, and often resorted to almost guttural noises and screams. We as parents of three other young children were vastly unprepared to deal with this new wrinkle in our lives. Thankfully for us, we were knowledgeable about the Birth to Three program in Cheshire. We met with Donna Notti and other staff members of the Birth to Three program and they in turn met with Finley.

I cannot begin to stress how great this program has been for Finley and for our whole family. The Birth to Three folks made repeated trips to our home to work with Finley, and to really teach Staci and I how to be better with her. They would observe and interact with Finley, they would teach us techniques to work on with her, they would document everything, and they would check up on her/our progress. In addition to home visits they encouraged group sessions with Finley, and ultimately helped us get her placed into an early intervention special education program for our town.

The change in my daughter has been drastic. The techniques used, and the time, effort, and caring given helped Finley to get past the majority of the issues that she was having. She has been revealed as a talkative, caring, and super smart little girl. She no longer has outbursts or screaming sessions, and if she is for some reason upset; she is fully able to communicate her feelings, and to even give herself a break by removing herself from a stressful situation. I have no doubt that this is all in large part thanks to the efforts of the Birth to Three program.

In closing I would also state that we are fairly lucky in our experiences. Finley is a kid who had a hiccup early on in life, and who with the help of some early intervention was able to quickly move past it. I know that the Birth to Three people in Cheshire work with families in town with much greater needs than ours, and I am certain that without the program these families would be utterly lost. I must once again stress my confidence and satisfaction in this program, and in the people who make it successful.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Miller